

*Amendments*

*In the Specification:*

Please amend page 1 as follows:

This application is a continuation of application no. 08/975,969, filed November 21, 1997, which is now U.S. Patent No. 6,002,344.

*In the Claims:*

Please amend the claims as follows:

92. (Amended) An automated, real-time electronic inventory system, comprising:

(A) a plurality of passive radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, wherein each tag is assigned a first permanent identification number and a second permanent identification number, wherein said passive RFID tags are configured to receive and transmit signals; and

(B) a tag reader having means for transmitting a signal to said passive RFID tags and means for resolving contention between multiple RFID tags that respond to said signal;

(C) wherein said passive RFID tags are configured to receive said signal from said reader, evaluate said signal relative to said first or second permanent identification numbers, and reply to said signal if appropriate.

94. (Amended) The electronic inventory system of claim 92, wherein said signal is a clock signal, and said tag reader emits a series of clock signals, wherein each clock signal defining a time slot.